ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner Jeff Regnart, Director



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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 22 EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-23-13

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 22 closes set gillnetting in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections of the Upper Subdistrict on Thursday, July 25, 2013 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

As of July 22, indices used to assess inriver abundance indicate a king salmon run that is below average. The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for Kenai River late-run king salmon is 15,000 to 30,000 king salmon. The DIDSON cumulative estimate of king salmon passage into the Kenai River was 8,291 fish. The sport harvest of king salmon in the Kenai River, as estimated by an inseason creel survey, was 1,341 fish. At the current rate of harvest, the projected escapement will be below the SEG. As a result of this assessment, an emergency order has been issued restricting the Kenai River sport fishery to catch-and-release/trophy king salmon fishing, beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, July 25.

Therefore, limiting the harvest of king salmon in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery is warranted in an effort to achieve the SEG. No more than one 12-hour fishing period per management week (Sun-Sat) will be allowed. Scheduling of this 12-hour fishing period will be based on sockeye salmon abundance on the eastside beaches in Cook Inlet.